

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 4485

DEPT PASS AIFLD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PN, ELAB

SUBJ: CHRISTIAN LABOR LEADER PROPOSES JOINT ACTION
AGAINST COMMUNISTS

SUMMARY: THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE CHRISTIAN CIT LABOR
CONFEDERATION HAS MADE AN UNPRECEDENTED PROPOSAL THAT THE
AIFLD-SUPPORTED CTRP LABOR CONFEDERATION AND AN INDEPENDENT
REPRESENTATIVE JOIN HIM TO INTERCEDE WITH THE GOP OVER
MARXIST PENETRATION OF THE LABOR MINISTRY'S PROGRAMS. CIT
AND CTRP LEADERS ALLEGE THAT NEW GOP INSTITUTE OF LABOR
STUDIES IS DOMINATED BY MARXISTS. END SUMMARY

1. THE AIFLD COUNTRY PROGRAM DIRECTOR REPORTS THAT JULIO
CESAR PINZON, THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE CHRISTIAN CENTRAL
ISTMENA DE TRABAJADORES (CIT), SUGGESTED TO DEAN BUTCHER,
THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE FREE LABOR CONFEDERACION DE
TRABAJADORES DE LA REPUBLICA DE PANAMA (CTRP), ON JULY 30
THAT THEY ACT TOGETHER TO COMBAT MARXIST INFLUENCE IN THE
LABOR MOVEMENT. THE MINISTRY OF LABOR HAS IN PAST FEW
WEEKS BEGUN OPERATION OF ITS OWN EDUCATION INSTITUTE
(INSTITUTO DE ESTUDIOS LABORALES - IES). BUTCHER AND
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PINZON ALLEGE THE IES IS DOMINATED BY MEMBERS OF THE

COMMUNIST-CONTROLLED CENTRAL NACIONAL DE TRABAJADORES PANAMENOS (CNTP). PINZON PROPOSED AND BUTCHER ACCEPTED A PLAN TO ASK LT. COL. MANUEL ANTONIO MORIEGA, THE CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL GUARD'S G-2 INTELLIGENCE ARM, TO CORRECT THIS FAVORITISM.

2. PINZON AND BUTCHER WILL TRAVE AUGUST 9 TO CHIRIQUI PROVINCE TO REQUEST EDUARDO VALDES, SECRETARY GENERAL OF AN IMPORTANT INDEPENDENT CHIRIQUI LABOR FEDERATION, TO JOIN THEM IN THEIR APPROACH TO NORIEGA. (PINZON, BUTCHER AND VALDES, TOGETHER WITH DOMINGO BARRIA OF THE CNTP, CONSTITUTE THE GOVERNING BOARD OF PANAMA'S NATIONAL LABOR COUNCIL - CONATO.) THE TRIO WILL ASK NORIEGA TO CAUSE IES TO SUSPEND OPERATIONS PENDING A COMPLETE REORGANIZATION NEXT YEAR WHICH WOULD GIVE NON-COMMUNIST LEADERS A DOMINANT ROLE IN THE INSTITUTE.

3. COMMENT: PINZON AND BUTCHER ARE NOT APPROACHING LABOR MINISTER ROLANDO MURGAS DIRECTLY BECAUSE THEY CONSIDER HIM TO BE BIASED IN FAVOR OF CNTP LEADERSHIP. WE HAVE PRVIOUSLY HEARD COMPLAINTS FROM LABOR SOURCES CONCERNING MURGAS' FAVORITISM TOWARD THE CNTP. THIS IS FIRST TIME THAT CIT AND CTRP LEADERS HAVE JOINED FORCES TO COMBAT CNTP. IF VALDES JOINS THEM IN APPROACH TO NORIEGA, THEY HAVE FAIR CHANCE OF GETTING POSITIVE RESULTS. TORRIJOS' TOLERANCE OF COMMUNISTS IS DESIGNED TO KEEP LEFT FROM ATTACKING GOP, BUT HE ALSO WISHES AVOID TROUBLE FROM OTHER SECTORS AND RESPONDS TO PRESSURE. FACT THAT LEADERS OF TWO MAJOR LABOR CONFEDERATIONS, PLUS LEADER OF SIGNIFICANT INDEPENDENT FEDERATION, STRONGLY OBJECT TO MEMBERSHIP OF INSTITUTE OF LABOR STUDIES WILL BE DIFFICULT TO IGNORE.
JORDEN

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED AIFLD.

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